

Message Text

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FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 600

AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 446

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, WB

SUBJECT: FORMATION OF BERLIN GOVERNMENT

REF: USBERLIN 402

1. SPD CHAIRMAN KLAUS SCHUETZ AND FDP CHAIRMAN WOLFGANG LUEDER MET AFTERNOON OF MARCH 5 IN SENAT GUEST HOUSE FOR FIRST FORMAL DISCUSSIONS ON FORMATION OF COALITION GOVERNMENT. SPD SIDE WAS ALSO REPRESENTED BY KURT NEUBAUER (DEPUTY CHAIRMAN), KLAUS RIEBSCHLAEGER (2 ND DEPUTY CHAIRMAN), WOLFGANG HAUS (SPD CAUCUS LEADER) AND WALDEMAR SCHULZE FROM PARTY'S LEFT-WING. LIBERALS WERE HERMAN OXFORD (FDP CAUCUS CHAIRMAN), WALTER RASCH (DEPUTY CAUCUS CHAIRMAN), JOERG SCHLEGEL AND JUERGEN KUNZE. SENAT LIAISON OFFICER LEARNED ON MARCH 6 THAT DISCUSSIONS WENT REASONABLY SMOOTHLY BUT THAT DIFFICULT ISSUES, SUCH AS DISTRIBUTION OF OFFICES, NOT YET INTRODUCE. MOST RECENT SPECULATION IS THAT LUEDER WILL
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BECOME SENATOR FOR SCIENCE AND ARTS: OXFORD, MAYOR AND

SENATOR FOR JUSTICE: GERHARD EMIG, SENATOR FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, AND RASCH, VICE PRESIDENT OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. POSSIBILITY OF HAVING TO MOVE OUT TO MAKE WAY FOR FDP APPOINTEE IS DISTURBING MANY HIGH-LEVEL SENAT OFFICIALS.

2. AT PRESS CONFERENCE ON MARCH 5, TWELVE HOURS AFTER HIS RELEASE BY KIDNAPPERS, AND JUST BEFORE SPD-FDP MEETING DISCUSSED ABOVE, BERLIN CDU CHAIRMAN PETER LORENZ ANNOUNCED THAT CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS WOULD EXERCISE TRADITIONAL PARLIAMENTARY RIGHT OF STRONGEST PARTY AND SEEK TO FORM GOVERNMENT. ON MARCH 7, IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT LORENZ HAD INVITED SPD AND FDP LEADERS TO SEPARATE MEETINGS ON MARCH 11 TO DISCUSS COALITION POSSIBILITIES.

3. DESPITE THIS DEVELOPMENT, WE ANTICIAPTE THAT AFTER PRO--FORMA CONSULTATIONS WITH CDU, SPD AND FDP WILL CONTINUE THEIR COALITION TALKS. INDEED, THIS WAS ANTICIPATED BY CDU CAUCUS CHAIRMAN HEINRICH LUMMER IN PRESS STATEMENT MARCH 7, IN WHICH HE NOTED THAT FIRST NEGOTIATING ROUND BETWEEN SPD AND FDP INDICATED THAT IN BERLIN, PRINCIPLE OF "COALITION OF LOSERS" WOULD BE CONTINUED. LUMMER ADDED THAT THIS WOULD BE CONTRARY TO WILL OF THE VOTERS, WHO MADE CDU STRONGEST BERLIN PARTY.

4. THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT, AS POINTED OUT BY KEMNA IN MARCH 7 DIE WALT, THAT THERE IS LACK OF ENTHUSIASM WITHIN SPD FOR COALITION WITH FDP. HOWEVER, FOR REASONS OF SYMMETRY WITH BONN GOVERNMENT AND NECESSIT FOR SCHUETZ TO FIND WAY OF REMAINING AS GOVMAYOR, WE SEE LITTLE SERIOUS ALTERNATIVE TO SOCIALIST-LIBERAL COALITION IN BERLIN. GEORGE

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